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700 LAVACA, SUITE 800
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TELEPHONE (512) 853-8800
FACSIMILE (512) 853-8801

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FAX

To: Examiner Nguyen, V. (Art Unit 2126)

From: Robert C. Kowert

Fax: 703-372-9306

Pages: 13 (including cover sheet)

Phone:

Date: March 19, 2004

Re: U.S. SN 09/653,614 (5181-67400)

Phone: 512-853-8850

In a telephone conversation with Examiner Nguyen today, March 19, 2004, the Examiner verified that the U.S. Patent Office had no record of receiving the Response to Office Action for U.S. Serial No. 09/653,614, which was mailed February 20, 2004.

Per Examiner Nguyen's request, attached is a copy of the originally submitted Response to Office Action and supporting papers, as well as a Practitioner's Statement.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Kowert

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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2126

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/653,614
Filed: August 31, 2000
Inventors:
Slaughter, et al.

Examiner: Nguyen, V.
Group/Art Unit: 2126
Atty. Dkt. No: 5181-67400

Title: Mechanism and Apparatus
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with
the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first
class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for
Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the
date indicated below.

Robert C. Kowert

Printed Name

Signature

February 20, 2004

Date

RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION OF
DECEMBER 22, 2003

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Action of December 22, 2003, to
further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.